Post 3/32/65

Air Force Court-Martial Ordered For Retired Colonel Who Headed Band

By Ernest A. Ltito
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Air Force preferred court-martial charges yesterday against Col. George S. Howard (USAF-ret.), who commanded the Air Force Band for almost 20 years.

Howard, 62, of 7305 Coolridge rd., Camp Springs, Md., was charged with violating two specifications of Article 121 of the Uniform Code of "theft of money from the United States in the aggregate amount of $1200."

Other charges alleging violations of th Uniform Code:

- Two specifications of conspiracy to steal from the U.S. and a civilian concert tour agent.
- One specification of wrongfully spending Government funds for property for which the Government had no use.
- Two specifications of false claims against the Government.

A spokesman for the Air Force's Headquarters Command at Bollery Air Force Base refused to elaborate. "Any further comment," he said, "might prejudice the outcome of the trial."

U.S. Air Force Photo

GEORGE S. HOWARD
. . . faces court-martial

The spokesman did say that the charges were rought following a detailed investigation and that the violations occurred while Howard was still on active duty.

Reached by phone at his home, Howard declined comment.

Howard, who retired from the Air Force in 1963, took over conductorship of the Air Force Band in 1944, when it was known as the Army Air Force Band.

He took the band, stationed at Bolling, to 47 countries and on 10 international tours during those 19 years. Whe he retired, he was Conductor of the Air Force Band and Chief of Air Force Bands and Music.

He helped develop the Singing Sergeants, the Bagpipe Band and the Airmen of Note. He also composed pieces such as "My Missouri," dedicated to former President Harry Truman, and "The American Doughboy."